

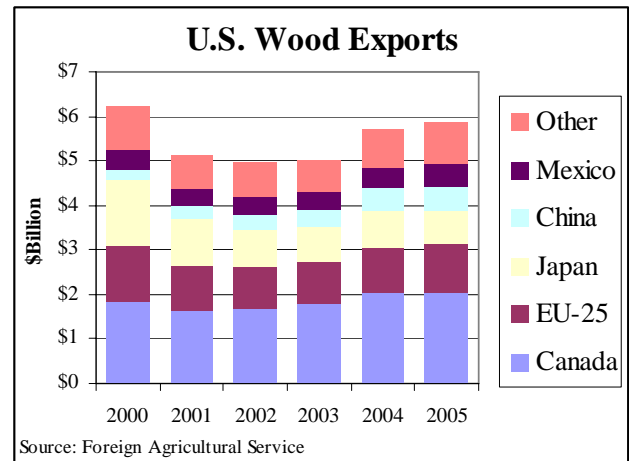
U.S. Wood Exports Increased in 2005

In 2005, U.S. solid wood product exports were valued at \$5.9 billion, an increase of 2.8 percent compared with 2004. Wood exports are forecast to remain at this level in 2006. Exports to Canada, the European Union-25 (EU), China and Hong Kong (China), Mexico and the Caribbean increased, while exports to Japan decreased. These top markets account for 88 percent of the total value of exports, though U.S. wood is exported to over 180 countries.

In 2005, exports to Canada were valued at \$2.1 billion, an increase of one percent compared with 2004. Hardwood lumber, the top wood commodity exported to Canada, decreased six percent during this time period primarily due to decreased shipments of red oak. Increased maple exports partially offset red oak losses. Hardwood log exports to Canada decreased four percent on the weakness of red and white oak. Increased exports of maple logs partially offset this decrease. Softwood log exports increased 10 percent as a result of strong demand for spruce and pine.

In 2005, exports to the EU were valued at \$1.1 billion, an increase of one percent compared with 2004. Hardwood lumber exports increased four percent during this time period on the strength of white oak and western red alder, while yellow poplar and cherry exports decreased. Softwood lumber exports increased 16 percent on the strength of hemlock and pine. Though a minor export category, hardwood flooring exports increased from \$6 million in 2004 to \$11 million in 2005, with shipments primarily going to the United Kingdom.

In 2005, exports to Japan were valued at \$740 million, a decrease of eight percent compared with 2004, making Japan the only major market in decline. Softwood log exports decreased eight percent primarily as a result of decreased shipments of Douglas-fir and western hemlock, while exports of spruce logs increased slightly. Softwood lumber exports declined 45 percent as a result of decreased shipments of Douglas-fir, Sitka



spruce, western hemlock and amabilis fir. Hardwood lumber exports decreased three percent on the weakness of white oak and western red alder.

In 2005, exports to China were valued at \$573 million, an increase of 11 percent compared with 2004. Hardwood lumber exports increased 12 percent on the strength of western red alder and white oak, while walnut and ash exports decreased. Hardwood log exports increased 22 percent on the strength of walnut, yellow poplar and cherry exports, while red oak exports decreased. Hardwood veneer exports fell 36 percent as shipments of all species declined.

In 2005, exports to Mexico were valued at \$513 million, an increase of 12 percent compared with 2004. Hardwood lumber exports increased 12 percent during this time period on the strength of maple and western red alder, while red oak and yellow poplar exports decreased. Softwood lumber exports increased 34 percent, largely due to increased exports of other pine and other spruce.

Of the top U.S. wood markets, exports to the Caribbean enjoyed the largest percent gain in 2005, increasing 34 percent to \$239 million. Softwood lumber exports increased 26 percent on the strength of southern yellow pine. Softwood plywood and treated lumber exports increased 8 percent and 66 percent, respectively.

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